

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-14, and 17-30 are pending. Claims 24-27 have been allowed, claims 1, 5, 6, 12, 17, 21-23, and 28 have been amended, and claims 4, 11, 15, and 16 have been canceled. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, rejected claims 21-23 and 28-30 under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph, for being vague and indefinite. In particular, claim 21 was found to be objectionable on grounds that the “converter” is not a separate item from the “timing circuit” and the “switch” recited in this claim. Claim 21 has been amended to delete reference to the converter to resolve this ambiguity. Claim 28 was found to be objectionable for failing to recite a relationship between the first and second circuits. This claim has been amended to recite that the second circuit is coupled to the first circuit.

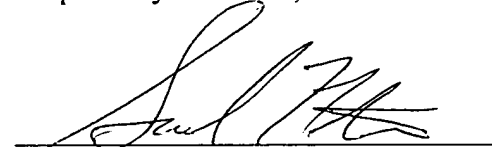
Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the § 112, Second Paragraph, rejection. With this rejection removed, it is further submitted that claims 21-23 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 5, 8-11, 16, 19, and 20 were indicated to be allowable if re-written into independent form to include the features of their base and intervening claims. Claim 5 has been re-written in this manner. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 11, claim 12 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 16, and claim 28 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the § 102(b) rejection and thereby place claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-14, 17-20, and 28-30 into condition for allowance along with claims 21-23 and previously allowed claims 24-27.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 23-1951 and please credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark L. Fleshner', is written over a horizontal line.

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